

BIOLOGICAL EVALUATION
Mountain Pine Beetle in Ponderosa
Pine on the Uintah and Ouray Indian
Reservation
1973

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Mountain Pine Beetle Infestation Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation 1973

INTRODUCTION

On October 11, 1973, Douglas Parker evaluated a mountain pine beetle outbreak in ponderosa pine near Cedar View Reservoir and along the Uinta River. Bureau of Indian Affairs personnel were interested in the trend of the outbreak and requested assistance.

GENERAL INFORMATION

INSECT: Mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopkins.

HOST TREE: Ponderosa pine, Pinus ponderosa Laws.

LOCATION: Near Cedar View Reservoir and along the Uinta River south of the Ashley National Forest boundary.

EXTENT OF INFESTATION: A map showing the distribution of dead trees is appended.

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Since 1966, scattered ponderosa pine losses due to the mountain pine beetle have been detected near Cedar View Reservoir and along the Uinta River during annual aerial surveys. Aerial survey records show that annual losses ranged from a low of 10 trees to a high of about 100 trees near the Reservoir, and from no attacks to a high of 300 trees along the Uinta River. The heaviest losses occurred in 1972. Lodgepole pine losses were not included in the above estimates.

Periodic on-the-ground examinations were conducted to confirm aerial survey findings, to gain information on the trend of the infestation, and to estimate the susceptibility of the stands. It was concluded that stand conditions were relatively unfavorable for the development of a large outbreak and losses would be widely scattered. As predicted, the infestation remained at a relatively low level.

DISCUSSION


Even though no newly attacked trees were found this year, there was beetle emergence from currently killed trees and the infestation is expected to continue. However, losses should be lower in 1974 than in 1973. As emphasized in previous years, the conditions are not favorable for a large population buildup on the Reservation.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Salvage logging is the best approach to this insect problem. Removal of infested or dead trees will have no appreciable effect on the course of the outbreak, but the timber resource will be utilized instead of lost. Logging should be undertaken in areas where trees have been killed in groups.

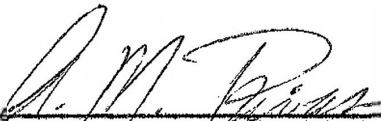
Suppression of the outbreak with chemicals is not recommended. The extent of the outbreak, and the relatively low level of losses indicate direct control would have little effect on the level of infestation.

Prepared by:

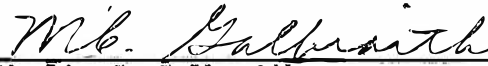


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APPENDIX

